

Glass Bedding the SKS

From www.sksboards.com

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK **REEL-RASCALS** FOR THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON **HOW TO GLASS-BED YOUR SKS STOCK**. WHILE HE WORKED WITH AN AFTERMARKET STOCK, THE PRINCIPLES ARE THE SAME WITH ANY SKS STOCK. This information first appeared in the old Survivors SKS Forum and we feel that it should be reproduced here.

This is a Chicom I purchased 8 years ago. I ground off all of the military hardware for the bayonet, etc. It is in a light-weight stock that has no monte carlo or cheekpiece on the left side of the stock (for a right-handed shooter). I "thought" that it was a Choate stock, but I don't see it in their catalog. I had a Ram line, too heavy. Tried ATI brand Dragunov style one, but one has to remove the entire action from the stock to clean from the breech, as there's a huge hump immediately behind the receiver cover. Anyway, this stock is light and fits me nicely in length of pull.



Now the best part ... as you can probably tell from some of my other posts, I have glass bedded anything and everything that I can on this rifle. I love gunsmithing and trying to accurize every bit of X-ring that I can out of a firearm and me. It had ~0.005" slop in the receiver cover (it would move) when the recoil spring wasn't installed. This tells me that it "could" move during recoil. So I glass bedded it like this:



The action was bedded, using Pro-Bed 2000 available from Hi-Score Gunsmithing (or you can use Marine-Tek epoxy) as one would do to a National Match M1A. On www.creedmoresports.com, you can buy a video on "how to" bed a M1A for \$16 -- the guy who produced it is THE best in the M1A gunsmithing business.

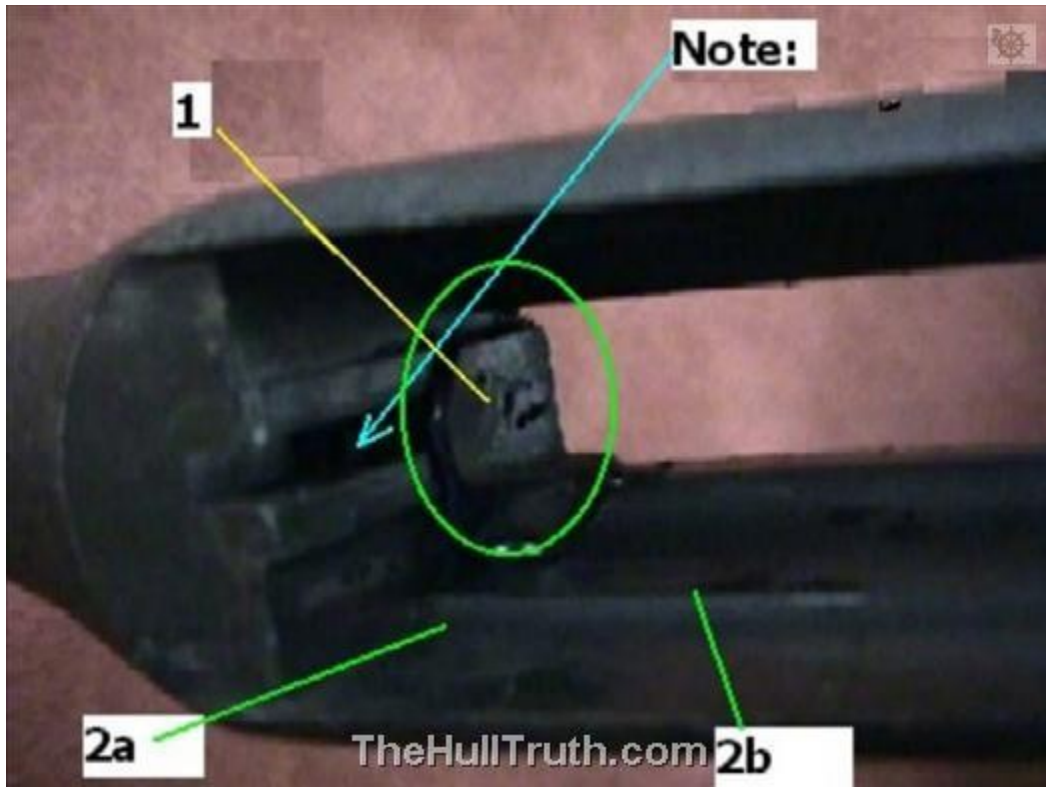
GLASS BEDDING THE SKS RIFLE - DETAILS

Essentially I bedded (1) the rearmost vertical inlet of the stock, where the mounting/locking post bears up against it, as the Choate shown has no recoil cross-bolt -- so this is key.

(2) The rear of the stock, in the recess where the receiver sits, and (3) a tiny, tiny bit, done as a separate operation, where the trigger group contacts against the rearmost inlet made for it.

(4) One may want to bed the barrel area where the barrel mates up against the forend hanger. Bed places 1 & 2 first -- you may not need to do #3 depending on your fit of your trigger group. I've been using a "C" clamp to close/lock the trigger group into the assembled rifle.

Let's look at this picture:



See the "shelf" between the surface heights of 2a and 2b? This is where the receiver "sits" -- with the receiver previously bedded as in Step #1. I drew a rough line where the bottom of the action bottomed, along its full length and applied epoxy in this area.

Use good epoxy. I only use Pro-Bed, an epoxy made for gunsmithing by Score High Gunsmiths (www.scorehi.com), but I've also used MarineTek, available from boat & good hardware stores. You can sand, drill, paint, and even drill&tap MarineTek -- it is super stuff (available in white, grey, and black).

I use Pam cooking spray w/ olive oil as a release agent -- no spray anywhere near where you want the epoxy to stick -- spray liberally to places you want to get it apart. One thing, degrease metal areas with lighter fluid first, as it leaves no residue, then apply the release agent.

I use blue masking tape to cover action pieces and stock areas so if epoxy hits it, it'll be easy to clean up. I'd recommend others do a little reading up on bedding if you've never done it before. See the note in the picture?? Apply tape over that hole or sure enough epoxy will get into it -- use a good coating of Pam spray. Let it dry > 24 hours -- you will need a plastic/wood/rawhide mallet to knock the assembled pieces before you can get them apart. The Pam spray works so well as a release agent, you will see a perfect impression in the epoxy where the mating piece was positioned.

Bed the receiver into the stock without the trigger group, or action parts installed/assembled!! If you have any vertical slop when the trigger group locks up closed, you can always add a "dot" of RTV/silicone under the rearmost tang of

the trigger group -- let it setup. This will tighten up this area and compress when you go to assemble it. I use a "C" clamp to close it together.

Remember, I also epoxy bedded my receiver cover lug. There was 0.005" slop before, now it is ZERO without the pin even inserted and latched !!

One new tip I'm using, as bedding will make things "tighter". Use a C-Clamp to slowly close the trigger action onto the mounting/latching arm. I did this when I bedded it and when I need to take it apart.

One thing when bedding. You have to be careful to prevent any hole or feature from "locking" the pieces together. If you had a small hole or recess, but needed to bed in that area -- fill the hole with wax or modeling clay, then apply release agent -- clean it up afterwards.

For 1st timers, for \$16 + shipping you can buy a video on "how to" glass bed the M1A from the gunsmith who is the best in the business. Here's the link:
(www.creedmoorsports.com/R0022.html)

So far so good in the accuracy department. Just for kicks, I also removed the long gas piston from the forend and shot it as a straight-pull bolt action rifle. The tight MOA groups were shot as full semi-auto action however. With ammo it likes, I'd bet \$\$\$ it can shoot consistent 5-shot groups at or less than 1.5" at 100 yards.

Hope this covers what you wanted to know -- feel free to ask more.

Good luck and tight groups!!!! *Reel-Rascals*